



Advisory  
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DWR to Draw Down Castaic Lake  
and Elderberry Forebay

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has begun lowering the surface level of Castaic Lake and Elderberry Forebay to facilitate needed repair and refurbishment work.

By November 20, 2006, the popular boating and fishing lake 45 miles northwest of Los Angeles will be approximately 60 feet below its normal summertime elevation.

Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department Regional Superintendent Lori Bennett said she does not expect the drawdown to cause any major problems with recreation at the lake. "We anticipate limited impact on our boat launch ramp facilities; however, boaters will need to pay particular attention to underwater hazards during this draw down that would not normally be encountered at regular lake elevations."

The 2,235 acre lake is open every day, except Christmas, from sunrise to sunset for boating, fishing, camping, hiking, picnicking and seasonal swimming. Bennett said she does not envision any restriction of those activities: "I doubt the drawdown will force us to limit usage," she said, "but anyone who wants to make certain before driving to the lake is welcome to call our information line at (661) 257-4050."

Refilling is scheduled to start on January 1, 2007. It will take about four months for the lake level to return to normal.

Several projects will be completed during the drawdown:

- Repair of erosion damage to Elderberry Dam
- Repair and refurbishment of the substructure and trash rack system on the face of Castaic Power Plant

- Completion of silt removal from cooling water systems
- Additional dredging of Elderberry Forebay
- 10 year inspection of DWR's West Branch pipelines.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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